

SALES TAX COMMITTEE: INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

NOVEMBER 7, 2012

Overview of the Committee

In 1989, Leon County voters approved a one cent sales tax to fund infrastructure improvements throughout the county and city. These funds were used for transportation and building improvements such as widening Orange Avenue and building the Leon County jail.

Prior to the sunset of the sales tax, a group of citizens got together to provide the County and City recommendations on implementing the extension of the sales tax. The group recommended that the County and City implement holistic projects that preserve, protect, and enhance the community's quality of life. This philosophy was later incorporated by Blueprint 2000. The extension of the one cent sales tax was subsequently approved by the votes to fund holistic projects that addressed flooding, protected environmental resources, and improved transportation in Leon County. A few of the projects that have been funded are the widening of Capital Circle, Fred George Greenway, and Cascades Park and Trail.

Citizen input and community involvement is a vital component and the key to successfully implementing projects that continue to enhance the community's quality of life and sense of place as well as the future of the sales tax referendum.

On September 13, 2011, the Board adopted the enacting resolution

to establish the Leon County Sales Tax Committee (Committee). The Committee is a group of 18 citizens appointed by the Leon County Board of County Commissioners and City of Tallahassee Commissioners representing a broad cross section of our community. They include representatives from the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, Capital City Chamber of Commerce, Blueprint 2000 Citizen Advisory Committee, and the Economic and Environmental Consensus Committee. The Committee's charge is to collect public input and make recommendations regarding public policy for the infrastructure sales tax issues within Leon County. It is anticipated that the Committee will make their recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners and the City Commission in June 2013.

Since its first meeting the Committee has been spent the last ten months on the following:

- Reviewed Blueprint 2000 background and organization structure
- Compared implementation of the local government infrastructure sales tax in other counties
- Reviewed Blueprint 2000, County, and City projects funded with sales tax dollars
- Reviewed changes to the statutes that govern the local infrastructure sales tax
- Reviewed of the Comprehensive Plan and Community Profile
- Hosted an Open House on April 26, 2012 to give the public the opportunity to provide their input and recommendations on the future projects for Committee consideration
- Developed a decision making process for Project Evaluation
- Considered a proposal for using a portion of the Sales Tax revenues on economic development.
- Discussed and considered Leon County proposed infrastructure projects

During the upcoming meetings this winter, the Committee anticipates to continue hearing from residents, and community organizations (such as the Water Resources Committee, Knight Creative Communities Institute project groups, FAMU, FSU, TCC, and Homeowner Associations), and continue their discussion on the economic development. Florida Statutes allow for up to 15% of the sales tax revenue to be set aside for economic development purposes.

The public is always welcome at Committee meetings, and the first part of each meeting is reserved for public comment. Please see a meeting schedule on the back of this newsletter or go online at www.LeonCountyFL.gov/salestax.

Come to our Open House on November 15, 2012!



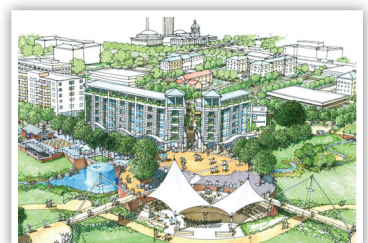
Citizens can present their own projects and ideas to the Committee at the Open House on Thursday, November 15, at 6:30 p.m.

This Open House is a time specially set aside for the Sales Tax Committee to hear from YOU! This is a great opportunity to engage with Committee members to learn about what the Committee has been working on and give your own input into the process.

If you cannot attend the open house, all regular committee meetings are open to the public and your presence is welcome. Hope to see you on November 15th!

WHEN: November 15, 2012
at 6:30pm

WHERE: Program Room (first floor) of the
Collins Main Library, 200 W. Park Avenue



Rendering of Cascade Park, funded by the One Cent Sales Tax



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Letter from the Chairman

Our community is strong and vibrant, thanks in part to our past investments with the one cent sales tax. The success of the first sales tax extension was the direct result of citizen input. Once again, the community is coming together to implement holistic projects that preserve, protect, and enhance the community's quality of life. By continuing to invest in our community, we can pave a path for growth and improvement will make Leon County a great place to live for generations to come.

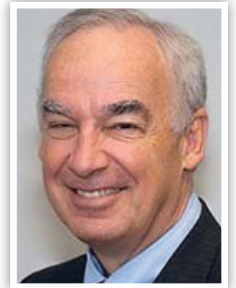
As a Committee, we believe that citizen input and community involvement are vital to successfully implementing projects that continue to enhance the community's quality of life and sense of place. We all can work together to invest in our community and see improvements that we will all be able to enjoy.

With this in mind, what projects would you like to see our community invest? Some suggestions brought to us by residents include Gateway

projects for North and South Monroe, water quality projects, and neighborhood improvements such as sidewalks. Come to our Open House and tell us what improvements you would like to see in your community.

Please consider this a personal invitation to come to the Committee's Open House on November 15th. We would truly appreciate hearing your opinion.

I would also like to personally thank the Committee members for volunteering their valuable time and expertise to serve our great community. This is a great group of folks who love our community and I'm excited to see what the upcoming months will bring. We hope to see you on November 15th at 6:30 in the Main Library!



Steve Evans, Sales Tax
Committee Chairman

Upcoming Meetings

- November 15, 2012
 - » General Meeting: 4:00 p.m.
 - » Open House: 6:30 p.m.
- November 29, 2012
- December 13, 2012
- January 10, 2013
- January 24, 2013
- February 28, 2013
- March 28, 2013
 - » General Meeting: 4:00 p.m.
 - » Open House: 6:30 p.m.
- April 25, 2013

All Committee meetings begin at 4:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

The meetings are held in the First Floor Program Room of the Collins Main Library, 200 W. Park Avenue.

For More Information

To learn more about the Committee, get a copy of meeting agendas and minutes, learn more about Committee members, or to see a calendar of our meetings go to **www.LeonCountyFL.gov/salestax**.

The proposed County and City projects for Committee Consideration can be found at **www.talgov.com/planning/sales-tax.aspx**.

Contact Us

If you have any questions or comments please contact **Cristina Paredes** by phone at **(850) 606-5300** or by email at **SalesTaxInfo@leoncountyfl.gov**.

